



Teacher Resource & Activity Guide

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YEAR OF THE HAWAIIAN FOREST

CENTENNIAL 2003

What is Year of the Hawaiian Forest?

In 2002, the Hawai'i State legislature proclaimed 2003 the "Year of the Hawaiian Forest." This official proclamation recognizes the importance of 100 years of forest reserves in Hawai'i. In fact Hawai'i has the oldest system of forest reserves in the nation. It was a special time in history when Hawai'i's people, landowners, and government came together to protect and manage Hawai'i's forests and watersheds.

- The protection and management of Hawai'i's forests are critical to our water supply and the quality of our beaches and coral reefs.
- Today partnerships continue, echoing the actions of a century ago. These partnerships are in the form of Watershed and Natural Area Partnership Programs.
- Because private land owners own one-half of Hawai'i's forests, these partnerships are now managing many of Hawai'i's priority forested watersheds and important native ecosystems.
- Threats such as invasive plants and animals have the capacity to change Hawai'i's forests forever. A healthy forest is no accident.
- Committed landowners and agencies work very hard to manage Hawai'i's forests for the future of the native species and humans that depend on them for survival.
- Hawaii's urban forest is a crucial link to our mountain watershed forests and is part of a modern day *ahupua'a* of forests from the mountains to the sea.

How Can I Participate?

We can all participate in this celebration of Hawaiian forests here are some ideas how:

- Get outdoors and experience Hawai'i's forests, learn about their importance first hand *TIP: Hawai'i is full of accessible trails, parks and preserves.*
- Join an environmental club at your school, if there is none, start one!
- Grow native plants at home and at your school. *TIP: Make sure you plant the right plant/tree in the right place for better success— ask Kaulunani!*
- Pass on your enthusiasm to your family and friends.
- When hiking, clean your boots before and after entering the forest *especially a native forest!*
- Don't release your pets, they can become big problems in the forest.
- Make sure the plants you grow are not *invasive*.
- Report sightings of foreign plants and animals. *Visit the HEAR website for more information.*
- Help keep the forests free of litter. *You can even organize your friends to adopt a forest.*
- Make your concerns known to your parents and government representatives.

Web Links for more information:

<http://www.dofaw.net/>

<http://www.malamahawaii.org>

<http://www.hear.org/>

<http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/kaulunani/index.html>

<http://www.hawaiitrails.org/>

<http://www.mgf-hawaii.com/>